



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Sarah Ardalani
Public Information Officer
213-257-2000
SArdalani@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOOffice

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LA County Firefighter Charged with Possession of a Firearm Near School, Sexual Battery

A Los Angeles County Firefighter accused of sexually assaulting a woman in El Monte and carrying a concealed weapon near an elementary school was charged today, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Richard Thomas Loken (dob 6/27/77) of Moreno Valley has been charged with four counts: possession of a firearm in a school zone, sexual battery, false imprisonment and having a concealed firearm in a vehicle in case KA110714.

The defendant is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 3 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, El Monte Branch. Prosecutors will ask bail be set at \$30,000.

Prosecutors said on Sept. 16 a woman was walking in El Monte when Loken reportedly approached her and grabbed her breast.

The woman immediately called 911 as the defendant allegedly stood in front of her, blocking her way, prosecutors said.

A passerby heard the woman screaming and asked what was happening, at which point Loken reportedly left the area, prosecutors added.

About four hours later, Loken was reportedly seen sitting in his vehicle for an extended period of time near Potrero Elementary School. Concerned citizens called police, according to prosecutors.

When police arrived, they approached the defendant's car and discovered a firearm in the vehicle. Law enforcement subsequently arrested the defendant.

If convicted as charged, Loken faces a possible maximum sentence of eight years in county jail.

The case is being investigated by the El Monte Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.